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### New Literature

The most important books listed in these columns will receive notice in the book-review pages.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT**

#### BOOKS

SMITH, J. M. Powis, Ward, W. H., and Bewer, J. A. A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Micah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Obadiah, and Joel. [International Critical Commentary.] New York: Scribner, 1911. Pp. xix+537. \$3.00.

This volume continues the work begun by President Harper with his Amos and Hosea. The first three of the six prophets are interpreted by Dr. Smith, the last two by Dr. Bewer, and Habakkuk by Dr. Ward. These prophets, Habakkuk excepted, here receive the most comprehensive and exhaustive treatment obtainable in English.

V[INCENT], H[UGUES]. Underground Jerusalem. Discoveries on the Hill of Ophel. London: Horace Cox, 1911. Pp. 42 +31 half-tone illustrations +xvii plates. 7s. 6d.

A preliminary report of the excavations carried on by an English Company during the years 1909—11 under the hill of Ophel. The tunnel leading from the Pool of Siloam to the Virgin's Fountain was traced in all of its branches, which were found to be many and perplexing. Incidentally some ancient pottery and idols were found, which are thought to give evidence of civilized life on Ophel as early as 2500 B.C. A full report will follow the completion of the excavations.

# NEW TESTAMENT

Overbeck, Franz. Das Johannesevangelium: Studien zur Kritik seiner Erforschung. Aus dem Nachlass herausgegeben von Carl Albrecht Bernoulli. Tübingen: Mohr, 1911. Pp. xii+540. M. 12.

From the papers left at his death by the late Professor Overbeck, of Basel, Bernoulli has edited this substantial volume on the Gospel of John. Overbeck labored upon these materials at intervals throughout his long life, and it is in accordance with his wish that they appear in print. Overbeck held that the beloved disciple of the Fourth Gospel was an ideal figure, while the gospel itself was a poetical work, a piece of literature rather than history. His book is less a systematic treatise on the Johannine problem than a series of essays on certain phases of it. Overbeck's estimates of the work of other critics are sometimes too severe, while his own method is often open to serious objection. The printing of the Greek phrases scattered through the book is distressingly bad.

Lake, Kirsopp. The Earlier Epistles of St. Paul, Their Motive and Origin. London: Rivingtons, 1911. Pp. xi+466. 16s.

Professor Lake deals with Thessalonians, Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans. His specific effort is less to give a description of Paul's thought than to reconstruct the historical background, "a knowledge of which renders it possible to read the epistles with intelligence." To this end he has dealt, first, with matters of introduction, and second, with the world of religious thought of the first century, particularly the Hellenistic Mystery-religions. In seeking to bring this important and largely new material to bear upon the interpretation of Paul's letters he has done an important service. Large critical problems are dealt with in a series of appendices scattered through the book.